

**V. REMARKS**

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 9 are amended in a manner that:

- first display means/device is defined in the point of a plurality of reels on each of which plural symbols are formed.
- second display means/device is defined in the point where they are composed of liquid crystal display device including liquid crystal panel, light guide device, illumination device and reflection device.
- reflection device is defined in the point of reflection film having a reflection area for reflecting light from the light guide device toward the liquid crystal panel and plural non-reflection areas, each of which corresponds to each reel, the non-reflection areas being made light transmittable.

It is respectfully submitted that Muir does not disclose or imply the mechanical construction directed to the above-mentioned amendments. Therefore, this mechanical construction can never be anticipated by Muir because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of the independent claims as mentioned above. As a

result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7 and 19 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-6 and 25 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 8-12 and 26 depend from claim 7 and includes all of the features of claim 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 7 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 20-25 and 28 depend from claim 19 and includes all of the features of claim 19. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 19 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 27 depends from claim 13 and includes all of the features of claim 13. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 13 is allowable as discussed below.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Muir. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13, as amended, is directed to a gaming method comprising steps of:  
instructing a start of a game;

determining an internal winning combination based on a game start instruction command;

displaying a result concerning with the game on a first display device having a plurality of rotatable reels with a variety of symbols disposed a circumferentially about each reel;

generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result is displayed on the first display device; and

controlling a second display device in a form of a liquid crystal display having an effect display area and a plurality of symbol display areas.

Claim 13 recites that the effect display area surrounds each one of the symbol display areas and the second display device is arranged in front of the first display device so that, after starting the game start causing rotation of the plurality of reels and when an internal winning combination is determined, forward-most ones of the symbols of one stopped reel are displayed through a corresponding symbol display area and game information is superimposed, at least partially, over the displayed forward-most ones of the symbols of the one stopped reel within the corresponding symbol display area and, thereafter, the game information moves from the corresponding symbol display area to the effect display area for display thereon.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 13 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest, after starting the game start causing rotation of the plurality of reels and when an internal winning combination is determined, forward-most ones of the symbols of one stopped reel are displayed through a corresponding symbol display area and game information is superimposed, at least partially, over the displayed forward-most ones of the symbols of the one stopped reel within the corresponding symbol display area and, thereafter, the game information moves from the corresponding symbol display area to the effect display area for display thereon.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 14, 16-18 and 27 depend from claim 13 and include all of the features of claim 13. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 13 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 15 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that support for the added claim language can be found in Figure 10 and in the specification in paragraphs [0064]-[0071].

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

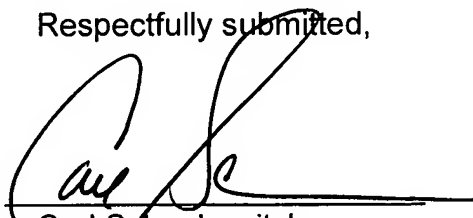
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below:

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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